



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Wes Bruce  
**DATE:** July 22, 2009  
**SUBJECT:** July Assessment Update

### ISTEP

#### **Cut Score Setting**

Cut score setting process for the spring ISTEP test took place as scheduled (July 14-17) with 163 teachers using the “bookmark” method. An expert panel reviewed the process and the teacher recommendations and offered observations and guidance. The Department has proposed cut scores to the Education Roundtable for their review and possible action on July 28, 2009. As required by law, the Roundtables resolution on cut scores will be presented to the State Board for adoption at the July 29, 2009 meeting.

### GQE

September and March GQE retest opportunities will continue to be available for students in the classes of 2010 and 2011 in both the next two school years.

### End of Course Tests (ECA)

An action item for the Board will be to establish the test windows for the “new” GQE. Algebra I and English 10 will be replacing the current mathematics and English/language arts portions of the GQE for the classes of 2012 and later. Other end of course assessments will also be offered in some of these windows.

### Diagnostics

Training is being scheduled for all of the schools who are adding the Wireless Generation and Acuity diagnostic tools for the 2009-10 school year.